

DC Fair Housing Symposium 2004

Fair Housing in a Changing Community

FREE EVENT!!!

Tuesday, April 20, 2004 • 8:00 – 4:30

Metro Center Marriot • 775 12th Street NW, Washington DC

James H. Carr: Luncheon Keynote Speaker



Jim Carr is Senior Vice President of Financial Innovation, Planning & Research for the Fannie Mae Foundation and a visiting professor of Urban Planning at Columbia University. Prior to his appointment to the Foundation, Jim served as Vice President for Housing Research at Fannie Mae, Assistant Director for Tax Policy with the U.S. Senate Budget Committee, and Research Associate at the Center for Urban Policy Research at Rutgers University. He has published and lectured on the issues of housing and urban policy, housing finance, community reinvestment and state and local finance. He has also written and presented on issues of technological innovation and workforce diversity.

Wanda Nieves: Opening Speaker



Ms. Nieves is the Region III Director of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for the U.S. Housing & Urban Development. Before taking her current position, Wanda Nieves worked for the Municipal Government of San Juan, Puerto Rico (PR), and held various positions including Equal Employment Opportunity Officer and Deputy Director for the Federal Affairs Department. She also worked with the municipal government of Guaynabo, PR, as the Senior Adviser to the Mayor in Planning and Federal Affairs. She was responsible for the managing and executing of all federal programs administered by the City, including: CDBG, Section 8 and Housing Rehabilitation. She also held the position of Administrator of Framingham Human Relations Commission in Massachusetts, and was recognized by the Governor and the House of Representatives for her unparalleled commitment to the advancement of civil and human rights in the region.

Managing Revitalization v Gentrification


10:15 – 12:15

Revitalization can and often has positive effects on neighborhoods and communities by bringing about economic and social diversity. But what happens when revitalization becomes inequitable? What happens when some of DC's poorest families are relocated or left homeless? Can there be a balance? An open discussion with experts will address the pros and cons from a government, private sector and non-profit viewpoint



Anthony A. Williams, Mayor





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Special Break-Out: Fair Housing Training

10:15 – 12:15 & 2:00 – 4:30

This free 4-hr training is designed for property managers, leasing agents and real estate professionals. Training will provide pro-active strategies on how to prevent violations of the fair housing laws including section 504. Topics will include: (1) an overview of fair housing laws, the role of the District's Enforcement Agency and the investigative process; (2) renting to persons with disabilities - reasonable modification and reasonable accommodation issues and (3) enforcing tenant rules in a non-discriminatory manner. Space is limited.

Predatory Lending

2:15 - 3:15 PM

In the District of Columbia, the elderly homeowner could be at risk of becoming a victim of predatory lending. This practice refers to fraudulent or abusive lending tactics used by a financial institution, brokerage firm, mortgage company or any other entity which offers financing for a product or service. Abusive tactics include: habitually charging unnecessary and oftentimes undisclosed fees; not fully disclosing loan terms; and/or writing the terms in such a way that ensures an extremely high profit for the lender. Information will be provided on how predatory lending occurs and how to avoid scams that are targeted toward the elderly.

Housing Codes/Home Improvement

3:30 - 4:30 PM

In today's market, the availability of housing in the city is scarce, new home prices are sky high and the current housing stock is old and often in need of repair. Much of the older housing stock in targeted neighborhoods for predatory lending is owned by elderly residents who have built up years of equity on their homes, as well as, immigrants residents who are realizing their dream of homeownership. However, the safety of having a home is repeatedly overshadowed by unscrupulous and predatory home improvement scams, faulty inspections, and other tactics frequently used by corrupt and unlicensed contractors and financing companies. Key questions about home improvement inspections, housing code violations, construction and investigation of home repair fraud which lead to predatory loans will be discussed.

Sponsored by:
The DC Office of Human Rights, the Department of
Housing and Community Development and the
Equal Rights Center

To register log on to: www.equalrightscenter.org

Or call (202) 234-3062

For special accommodations, please call (202) 727-1145